107TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 4061

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a Nationwide Health Tracking Network, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 20, 2002

Ms. Pelosi (for herself, Mrs. Jones of Ohio, Mr. King, Ms. Slaughter, Ms. Delauro, Mr. Frost, Mr. Waxman, Mr. Brown of Ohio, Mr. Towns, Mr. Murtha, Mr. George Miller of California, Mr. Filner, Mr. Kucinich, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Woolsey, Mr. Blagojevich, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Hinchey, Mr. Serrano, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Jackson of Illinois, Mr. Stark, Mr. Rush, Ms. Lee, Mr. Israel, Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Clyburn, Mr. Kennedy of Rhode Island, Ms. McKinney, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Ms. Brown of Florida, Ms. McCollum, Ms. Solis, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Rothman, Mr. Capuano, and Ms. Baldwin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a Nationwide Health Tracking Network, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Nationwide Health
- 5 Tracking Act of 2002".

1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

1	SEC. 2. PRODUCES AND I CHI OSE.
2	(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
3	(1) approximately 7 out of every 10 deaths in
4	the United States are attributable to chronic dis-
5	eases;
6	(2) with 100,000,000 people suffering from
7	chronic diseases each year, and \$325,000,000,000
8	lost in annual health care and productivity costs as
9	a result, the national cost of chronic diseases is ex-
10	tremely high and needs to be appropriately ad-
11	dressed;
12	(3) the rates of many chronic diseases, includ-
13	ing asthma, some birth defects, and cancers, are on
14	the rise;
15	(4) there is growing scientific evidence that en-
16	vironmental factors are as strongly linked, or even
17	more strongly linked, to the incidence of certain
18	chronic diseases as is genetic predisposition;
19	(5) a gap in critical knowledge exists in under-
20	standing the prevalence and incidence of chronic dis-
21	eases and the environmental factors that may relate
22	to them, including statewide and community level in-
23	cidence data on chronic diseases that is critically
24	needed to identify trends and patterns and to im-

prove disease prevention efforts;

- (6) States, territories, Indian tribes, and local communities need assistance with chronic disease and environmental exposure surveillance and prevention efforts, including the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the necessary infrastructure for such activities; and
 - (7) a nationwide health tracking network, including the integration of data systems and collaborative programs and partnerships among environmental and public health professionals and other parts of the public health system, will help target resources more efficiently to those areas most in need.
 - (b) Purposes.—It is the purpose of this Act to—
 - (1) develop, operate, and maintain Nationwide and State Health Tracking Networks and rapid response capabilities so that the Federal Government, States, communities, territories, and Indian tribes can more effectively monitor, investigate, respond to, research, understand, and prevent increases in the incidence and prevalence of certain chronic diseases;
 - (2) develop, operate, and maintain Nationwide and State Health Tracking Networks that will provide information to Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local agencies, public health practitioners and researchers, policymakers, and the public about cer-

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1	tain chronic diseases and relevant environmental, be-
2	havioral, socioeconomic, demographic, and other risk
3	factors;
4	(3) develop, operate, and maintain Nationwide
5	and State Health Tracking Networks by building
6	upon, expanding, coordinating among, and, where
7	necessary, adding to existing surveillance and data
8	collection systems, registries, surveys, laboratories,
9	and other infrastructure; and
10	(4) provide the support necessary to ensure the
11	availability of a sufficient number of well-trained en-
12	vironmental health and public health personnel to
13	participate and provide leadership in the develop-
14	ment, operation, and maintenance of the Nationwide
15	and State Health Tracking Networks.
16	SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
17	ACT.
18	The Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et

19 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 "TITLE XXVIII—NATIONWIDE

21 HEALTH TRACKING NETWORK

- 22 "SEC. 2800. DEFINITIONS.
- "In this title:

1	"(1) Commission.—The term 'Commission'
2	means the Commission on Nationwide Health Track-
3	ing established under section 2802.
4	"(2) Nationwide Network.—The term 'Na-
5	tionwide Network' means the Nationwide Health
6	Tracking Network established under section 2804.
7	"(3) Priority Chronic condition.—The
8	term 'priority chronic condition' means a condition
9	that appears on the list developed under section
10	2804(b)(2)(A).
11	"(4) State Network.—The term 'State Net-
12	work' means a State Health Tracking Network es-
13	tablished under section 2803.
14	"PART A—STATE BASED AND NATIONWIDE
15	HEALTH TRACKING NETWORKS
16	"SEC. 2801. STATE PILOT PROGRAMS.
17	"(a) In General.—Beginning in fiscal year 2003,
18	the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers
19	for Disease Control and Prevention, in consultation with
20	the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agen-
21	cy and the Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Sub-
22	stances, and taking into consideration the findings, con-
23	clusions and recommendations of the Commission, shall
24	enter into cooperative agreements, and continue existing
25	health tracking cooperative agreements funded under the

- 1 heading 'Centers for Disease Control and Prevention' (dis-
- 2 ease control, research, and training) under title II of the
- 3 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and
- 4 Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act,
- 5 2002 (Public Law 107–116), with States and political
- 6 subdivisions of States, territories, and Indian tribes for
- 7 the purpose of funding pilot programs to develop improved
- 8 surveillance and data collection methods, procedures, prac-
- 9 tices, and systems, including integration of systems, for
- 10 collecting, analyzing, and sharing data and identifying,
- 11 understanding, preventing, and responding to regional
- 12 concerns regarding chronic health conditions and relevant
- 13 environmental, behavioral, and other factors.
- 14 "(b) Purpose.—The purpose of the pilot programs
- 15 funded under subsection (a) is to provide for the establish-
- 16 ment and operation of the Nationwide and State Health
- 17 Tracking Networks as described in sections 2803 and
- 18 2804. Upon the establishment of such Networks, such
- 19 pilot programs shall be used to develop network enhance-
- 20 ments and to develop programs to address specific local
- 21 and regional concerns.
- 22 "(c) Application.—The Secretary may enter into,
- 23 or continue existing, cooperative agreements under sub-
- 24 section (a) only if an application for such an agreement
- 25 is submitted to the Secretary, and the application is in

- 1 such form, is made in such manner, and contains such
- 2 agreements, assurances, and information as the Secretary
- 3 determines to be necessary to carry out this section.
- 4 "(d) Coordination.—In approving applications
- 5 under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that there
- 6 is adequate coordination among the pilot programs to ef-
- 7 fectively advance the establishment and operation of the
- 8 Nationwide Network under section 2804.
- 9 "(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—For the
- 10 purpose of entering into, and continuing existing, coopera-
- 11 tive agreements under subsection (a), there is authorized
- 12 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
- 13 each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.
- 14 "SEC. 2802. COMMISSION ON NATIONWIDE HEALTH TRACK-
- 15 **ING.**
- 16 "(a) Establishment.—Not later than 3 months
- 17 after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary,
- 18 jointly with the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-
- 19 tection Agency, shall establish a commission to be known
- 20 as the Commission on Nationwide Health Tracking.
- 21 "(b) Membership.—
- 22 "(1) In general.—The Commission shall be
- composed of—
- 24 "(A) 15 voting members appointed in ac-
- cordance with paragraphs (2) and (3); and

1	"(B) nonvoting, ex officio members ap-
2	pointed in accordance with paragraph (3)(C).
3	"(2) Background and expertise.—The vot-
4	ing members of the Commission shall be appointed
5	from among individuals who—
6	"(A) are not officers or employees of the
7	Federal Government; and
8	"(B) have expertise regarding—
9	"(i) epidemiology;
10	"(ii) environmental health;
11	"(iii) public health;
12	"(iv) pediatric health;
13	"(v) vulnerable subpopulations and
14	disproportionately impacted groups;
15	"(vi) biomonitoring;
16	"(vii) environmental factors;
17	"(viii) chronic conditions; and
18	"(ix) privacy.
19	"(3) Representatives.—
20	"(A) APPOINTMENTS BY SECRETARY.—
21	Nine of the voting members of the Commission
22	shall be appointed by the Secretary, and shall
23	include at least 1 individual representing—
24	"(i) an advocacy group that rep-
25	resents people who have been diagnosed

1	with a priority chronic disease referred to
2	in section 2804(b)(2)(A);
3	"(ii) a public health advocacy group;
4	"(iii) a State or local public health de-
5	partment;
6	"(iv) a health care provider;
7	"(v) the hospital industry;
8	"(vi) a community health group;
9	"(vii) a pediatric health group;
10	"(viii) an accredited school of public
11	health or department of public health or
12	similar department within an accredited
13	school of medicine with expertise in envi-
14	ronmental health; and
15	"(ix) the research community.
16	"(B) Administrator.—Six of the voting
17	members of the Commission shall be appointed
18	by the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-
19	tection Agency, and shall include at least 1 in-
20	dividual representing—
21	"(i) an environmental advocacy group;
22	"(ii) a State or local environmental
23	protection agency;
24	"(iii) private industry;

1	"(iv) an environmental health advo-
2	cacy group;
3	"(v) an environmental justice advo-
4	cacy group; and
5	"(vi) the research community.
6	"(C) Ex officio members.—The Sec-
7	retary shall appoint officers or employees of the
8	Department of Health and Human Services and
9	the Administrator shall appoint officers or em-
10	ployees of the Environmental Protection Agency
11	as nonvoting, ex officio members of the Com-
12	mission.
13	"(c) Terms of Appointment.—Each member of
14	the Commission shall serve for a term of 4 years, except
15	that the terms of service of the members initially ap-
16	pointed under subsection $(b)(1)(A)$ shall be (as specified
17	by the Secretary or the Administrator, as the case may
18	be) for such fewer number of years as will provide for the
19	expiration of the terms of such members on a staggered
20	basis.
21	"(d) Vacancies.—Any vacancy in the Commission
22	shall not affect the powers of the Commission and shall
23	be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
24	"(e) Co-Chairs.—The Secretary and the Adminis-
25	trator shall each select a Co-Chair of the Commission from

1	among the voting members of the Commission. A member
2	selected as a Co-Chair shall serve as a Co-Chair for a term
3	of 2 years.
4	"(f) Duties.—
5	"(1) In General.—The Commission shall meet
6	regularly to provide advice and recommendations re-
7	garding the implementation of this title to the Sec-
8	retary and Administrator of the Environmental Pro-
9	tection Agency, including providing advice and rec-
10	ommendations regarding—
11	"(A) the awarding and use of State grants
12	described in section 2803, including—
13	"(i) methods for encouraging partici-
14	pation by all States in the establishment of
15	State Networks; and
16	"(ii) recommendations for providing
17	technical assistance to those States deter-
18	mined to need such assistance to build the
19	capacity of the State to the level necessary
20	for the establishment of a State Networks
21	"(B) the establishment and operation of
22	the Nationwide Network described in section
23	2804, including—
24	"(i) existing infrastructure, surveys,
25	registries, protocols, surveillance systems.

1	and databases that can be used and ex-
2	panded upon in establishing and operating
3	the Network; and
4	"(ii) the minimum standards and pro-
5	cedures described in section 2804(b);
6	"(C) the use of the Nationwide and State
7	Networks—
8	"(i) to inform communities, public
9	health professionals, researchers, members
10	of the public, and policymakers about
11	chronic conditions and relevant environ-
12	mental, behavioral, and other factors; and
13	"(ii) to better identify, understand, re-
14	spond to, and prevent the prevalence and
15	incidence of priority chronic conditions in
16	the United States;
17	"(D) the establishment and duties of the
18	National Environmental Health Rapid Re-
19	sponse Service established under section 2805
20	"(E) the expansion of biomonitoring and
21	other research tools as described in section
22	2806;
23	"(F) the most effective approaches for sup-
24	porting national priorities in carrying out activi-

- ties under this title, while providing appropriate
 flexibility to the States;
 - "(G) the establishment of guidelines to protect individual privacy and confidentiality in the establishment and operation of the Nationwide and State Networks; and
 - "(H) other issues specified by the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
 - "(2) COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Commission shall provide an opportunity for input from Federal, State, and local government agencies and for public participation through methods that include hearings and the submission of comments.
 - "(3) Reports.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this title, the Commission shall submit a report to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency that shall review the recommendations and findings of the CDC/ATSDR work groups. The Commission shall annually thereafter submit a report to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency that contains a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission

- together with additional recommendations for such
 legislation and administrative actions as the Commission considers to be appropriate.
- "(4) SELECTIONS.—The Commission shall review applications and make selections for the Centers of Excellence described in section 2811 and the John H. Chafee Scholarships described in section 2812.

"(g) Powers.—

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- "(1) Hearings.—The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out the objectives of this section.
- "(2) Information from federal agen-Cies.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Upon request of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.
- "(3) Postal services.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

"(h) Personnel.—

"(1) Travel expenses.—The members of the Commission shall not receive compensation for the performance of services for the Commission, but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission. Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may accept the voluntary and uncompensated services of members of the Commission.

- "(2) Detail of government employees.—
 Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.
- "(3) STAFF, INFORMATION, AND OTHER ASSIST-ANCE.—The Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall provide to the Commission such staff, information, and other assistance as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission.

- 1 "(i) PERMANENT COMMITTEE.—Section 14 of the
- 2 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not
- 3 apply to the Commission.
- 4 "(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
- 5 is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such
- 6 sums as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of
- 7 this section.
- 8 "SEC. 2803. STATE HEALTH TRACKING NETWORK GRANTS.
- 9 "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
- 10 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
- 11 vention, in consultation with the Administrator of the En-
- 12 vironmental Protection Agency and the Administrator of
- 13 the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry,
- 14 and taking into consideration the findings, conclusions,
- 15 and recommendations of the Commission, shall award
- 16 grants to eligible States, political subdivisions of States,
- 17 territories, and Indian tribes for the establishment, main-
- 18 tenance, and operation of State Networks in accordance
- 19 with the minimum standards and procedures established
- 20 by the Secretary under section 2804(b).
- 21 "(b) Use of Funds.—A State, political subdivision
- 22 of a State, territory, or Indian tribe that receives a grant
- 23 under this section shall use the amounts provided through
- 24 the grant to—

- "(1) conduct surveillance activities, building and expanding on existing procedures and systems where appropriate and available, to collect data, report data, and make data available to researchers and the public, in accordance with the minimum standards and procedures established by the Secretary under section 2804(b);
 - "(2) collect data through biomonitoring and other advanced methods;
 - "(3) analyze collected data in accordance with the minimum standards and procedures established under section 2804(b) to identify populations at high risk, examine and respond to health concerns, recognize and address relevant environmental, behavioral, socioeconomic, demographic, and other factors, effectively communicate risk, assess the efficacy of medical and public health intervention efforts, and establish and implement prevention strategies;
 - "(4) establish the capacity to respond in a timely manner to actual and perceived incidence rates of priority chronic diseases that are higher than expected, acute and potential environmental hazards and exposures, and other community environmental health concerns, including concerns regarding vul-

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- 1 nerable subpopulations and disproportionately im-2 pacted subpopulations; "(5) establish an early warning system to de-3 tect, investigate, and where necessary, respond to, 5 emergent public health concerns detected through 6 the State Network; "(6) recruit public health employees, including 7 8 the Environmental Health Investigators described in 9 subsection (e)(2)(B); 10 "(7) train public health employees in epidemi-11 ology, environmental health, risk communication, 12 and other relevant fields; "(8) pay for such staffing, administrative, and 13 14 other operating costs as may be required to carry 15 out this section; "(9) enhance the public health infrastructure, 16 17 including laboratories, outreach and communication
- programs, and other related initiatives; and

 "(10) carry out such other activities as the Sec-
- retary may determine necessary.
- 21 "(c) Existing Surveillance Systems, Reg-
- 22 ISTRIES, AND SURVEYS.—To the maximum extent prac-
- 23 ticable, States, political subdivisions of States, territories,
- 24 and Indian tribes shall use, expand, and integrate existing
- 25 surveillance and data collection systems, registries, and

1	surveys in the development and operation of a State Net-
2	work.
3	"(d) Limitation.—A State, political subdivision of
4	a State, territory, or Indian tribe that receives a grant
5	under this section—
6	"(1) may use not more than 10 percent of the
7	funds made available through the grant for adminis-
8	trative costs; and
9	"(2) may not use less than 10 percent of the
10	funds made available through the grant for data
11	analysis activities.
12	"(e) Eligibility.—
13	"(1) Application.—
14	"(A) In general.—To be eligible to re-
15	ceive a grant under subsection (a) a State, po-
16	litical subdivision of a State, territory, or In-
17	dian tribe shall submit to the Secretary for ap-
18	proval an application that is in such form, sub-
19	mitted in such manner, and accompanied by
20	such information, as the Secretary may specify.
21	"(B) REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVAL.—An
22	application submitted under subparagraph (A)
23	may not be approved by the Secretary unless
24	the application—

1	"(i) contains assurances that the
2	State, political subdivision of a State, terri-
3	tory, or Indian tribe—
4	"(I) will use grant funds only for
5	the purposes specified in the approved
6	application and in accordance with the
7	requirements of this section; and
8	"(II) will establish such fiscal
9	control and fund accounting proce-
10	dures as may be necessary to assure
11	proper disbursement and accounting
12	of Federal funds paid to the State,
13	political subdivision of a State, terri-
14	tory, or Indian tribe under the grant;
15	and
16	"(ii) contains the assurances described
17	in paragraph (2).
18	"(2) Assurances.—A State, political subdivi-
19	sion of a State, territory, or Indian tribe shall pro-
20	vide assurances satisfactory to the Secretary that
21	the State, political subdivision of a State, territory,
22	or Indian tribe will—
23	"(A) establish a Health Tracking Network
24	in accordance with subsection (a) that will
25	provide—

"(i) a means to ensure the complete 1 2 reporting of priority chronic conditions, as set forth in section 2804(b)(2)(A), and rel-3 evant environmental, behavioral, socioeconomic, demographic, and other factors 6 as set forth in subparagraphs (B) and (C) 7 of section 2804(b)(2), to the State Net-8 work by health care providers, hospitals, or 9 other facilities that provide screening, diag-10 nostic, or therapeutic services to patients; 11 "(ii) a means to access necessary 12 records that would identify the incidence 13 and prevalence of priority chronic condi-14 tions and relevant environmental, behav-15 ioral, socioeconomic, demographic, 16 other factors; 17 "(iii) a means to collect information 18 regarding relevant environmental factors 19 through biomonitoring and other methods, 20 except that a State, political subdivision of 21 a State, territory, or Indian tribe may sat-22 isfy the requirement of this clause through 23 the use of either its own laboratory or

through an agreement with other labora-

tories:

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1	"(iv) a means for the reporting of pri-
2	ority chronic conditions and relevant envi-
3	ronmental, behavioral, socioeconomic, de-
4	mographic, and other factors to the Na-
5	tionwide Network in such a format, with
6	such data elements, and in accordance with
7	such standards of quality, timeliness, and
8	completeness, as may be established by the
9	Secretary;
10	"(v) a means for the protection of the
11	confidentiality of all personal data re-
12	ported, in accordance with the regulations
13	promulgated under section 264(c) of the
14	Health Insurance Portability and Account-
15	ability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1320d–2
16	note);
17	"(vi) a means by which confidential
18	data may, in accordance with Federal and
19	State law, be disclosed to researchers for
20	the purposes of public health research;
21	"(vii) a means for the protection of
22	individuals complying with the law, includ-
23	ing assurances that no such individual
24	shall be held liable in any civil action with
25	respect to data disclosed to the State Net-

1	work, or with respect to access to personal
2	information provided to the State Network
3	and
4	"(viii) a means for providing the full-
5	est possible access to data collected by the
6	State Network while ensuring that indi-
7	vidual privacy is protected in accordance
8	with clause (v) and that risk is effectively
9	communicated;
10	"(B) appoint—
11	"(i) in the case of a State, a State de-
12	partment or agency;
13	"(ii) in the case of a political subdivi-
14	sion of a State, a local governmental de-
15	partment or agency;
16	"(iii) in the case of a territory, a ter-
17	ritorial department or agency; or
18	"(iv) in the case of an Indian tribe, a
19	tribal office;
20	as the environmental health lead department or
21	agency that will be responsible for reporting to
22	the Governor of the State (or other appropriate
23	State, territorial, or tribal official as the case
24	may be) regarding the State Network, be re-
25	sponsible for the development, operation, and

1	maintenance of the State Network, and ensure
2	the appropriate coordination among State and
3	local agencies regarding the development, oper-
4	ation, and maintenance of the State Network;
5	"(C) appoint or hire an Environmental
6	Health Investigator who meets the criteria es-
7	tablished by the Secretary under section
8	2804(b)(2)(H) and who will provide leadership
9	with respect to the establishment, operation,
10	and maintenance of the State Network;
11	"(D) comply with such minimum stand-
12	ards and procedures as the Secretary may pre-
13	scribe;
14	"(E) maintain such records and data and
15	afford such access thereto as the Secretary may
16	find necessary to assure the correctness of, and
17	to verify, reports submitted to the Nationwide
18	Network under this section;
19	"(F) establish an advisory committee to
20	ensure local community input to the State Net-
21	work;
22	"(G) use the funds provided under this
23	section to build on, expand, and coordinate
24	among the existing public health and environ-
25	mental infrastructure, including surveys, reg-

1	istries, protocols, surveillance and data collec-
2	tion systems, and health alert and other early
3	warning networks; and
4	"(H) provide an appropriate means for re-
5	ferring individuals with priority chronic condi-
6	tions to appropriate health services and for de-
7	termining their eligibility for health coverage
8	under the medicaid program carried out under
9	title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
10	1396 et seq.) or the State Children's Health In-
11	surance Program under title XXI of the Social
12	Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.).
13	"(f) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
14	is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
15	\$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.
16	"SEC. 2804. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE NA-
17	TIONWIDE HEALTH TRACKING NETWORK.
18	"(a) In General.—Not later than 36 months after
19	the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary, acting
20	through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control
21	and Prevention, in consultation with the Administrator of
22	the Environmental Protection Agency, the Administrator
22	
23	of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry,

25 territories and taking into consideration the findings, con-

1	clusions, and recommendations of the Commission, shall
2	establish and operate a Nationwide Health Tracking Net-
3	work. In establishing and operating the Nationwide Net-
4	work, the Secretary shall—
5	"(1) identify, build upon, expand, and coordi-
6	nate among existing data and surveillance systems
7	surveys, registries, and other Federal public health
8	and environmental infrastructure wherever possible
9	including—
10	"(A) the National Electronic Disease Sur-
11	veillance System;
12	"(B) State birth defects surveillance sys-
13	tems as supported under section 317C;
14	"(C) State cancer registries as supported
15	under part M of title III;
16	"(D) State asthma surveillance systems as
17	supported under section 317I;
18	"(E) the National Health and Nutrition
19	Examination Survey;
20	"(F) the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveil-
21	lance System;
22	"(G) the Substance Release/Health Effects
23	Database;
24	"(H) the Hazardous Substances Emer-
25	gency Events Surveillance System:

1	"(I) the National Exposure Registry;
2	"(J) the Health Alert Network; and
3	"(K) such other data and surveillance sys-
4	tems, registries, and surveys as considered ap-
5	propriate by the Secretary and the Adminis-
6	trator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
7	"(2) develop, operate, and maintain a national
8	database that accepts data from the State Networks
9	on the occurrence, including incidence and preva-
10	lence, of priority chronic conditions and relevant en-
11	vironmental, behavioral, socioeconomic, demographic,
12	and other factors;
13	"(3) coordinate the State Networks as provided
14	for under section 2803 and provide technical assist-
15	ance to support these Networks;
16	"(4) establish minimum standards and proce-
17	dures for data collection, reporting, and availability
18	to ensure that data collected by the Nationwide and
19	State Networks are—
20	"(A) accurate and of a high quality;
21	"(B) accessible to the public in a form that
22	provides for the protection of individual privacy
23	and provides for effective risk communication
24	(including in an electronic format);

1	"(C) accessible and sufficient to be used
2	and analyzed on a national scale by interested
3	parties; and
4	"(D) maintained in a manner that sup-

- "(D) maintained in a manner that supports the purposes of this title and protects individual privacy; and
- 7 "(5) develop guidance for appropriate data 8 analysis, response, risk communication, and preven-9 tion activities at the Federal and State level.
- 10 "(b) Establishment of Minimum Standards and11 Procedures.—

12 "(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 36 months 13 after the date of enactment of this title, the Sec-14 retary, acting through the Director of the Centers 15 for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consulta-16 tion with the Administrator of the Environmental 17 Protection Agency, the Administrator of the Agency 18 for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Sur-19 geon General, the Director of the National Institutes 20 of Health, States, Indian tribes, territories, and 21 other interested parties, shall establish minimum 22 standards and procedures for the establishment and 23 operation of the State Networks. In developing such 24 minimum standards and procedures, the Secretary

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1	shall take into consideration the findings, conclu-
2	sions, and recommendations of the Commission.
3	"(2) Contents.—The minimum standards and
4	procedures established under paragraph (1) shall
5	include—
6	"(A) a list and definitions of the priority
7	chronic conditions to be tracked through the
8	State Networks, including—
9	"(i) birth defects;
10	"(ii) developmental disabilities (such
11	as cerebral palsy, autism, and mental re-
12	tardation);
13	"(iii) asthma and chronic respiratory
14	diseases (such as chronic bronchitis and
15	emphysema);
16	"(iv) cancer, including pediatric can-
17	cers;
18	"(v) neurological diseases (such as
19	Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, and Alz-
20	heimer's); and
21	"(vi) other such priority chronic con-
22	ditions as the Secretary may specify;
23	"(B) a list and definitions of relevant envi-
24	ronmental factors to be tracked through the
25	State Networks;

"(C) a list and definitions of relevant behavioral, socioeconomic, demographic, and other risk factors, including race, ethnic status, gender, age, occupation, and primary language, to be tracked through the State Networks;

"(D) procedures for the complete, timely, and high-quality collection and reporting of annual data by census tract, or other political or administrative subdivision determined appropriate by the Secretary, regarding the incidence and prevalence of the priority chronic diseases listed under subparagraph (A), the relevant environmental factors listed under subparagraph (B), and the relevant behavioral, socioeconomic, demographic, and other factors listed under subparagraph (C) that will ensure the utility, accuracy, and sufficiency of the data for all interested parties and the protection of individual privacy;

"(E) procedures for making data available to the public at a community level, in an easily accessible and readily available format, ensuring the protection of individual privacy and effective communication of risk, and as quickly as possible after it is collected so that public health

1	officials and members of the public can respond
2	with appropriate public health activities while at
3	the same time protecting individual privacy and
4	ensuring effective communication of risk;
5	"(F) procedures for making data available
6	to researchers while maintaining adequate pro-
7	tections of individual privacy;
8	"(G) procedures for analyzing collected
9	data to identify populations at high risk, exam-
10	ining and responding to health concerns, recog-
11	nizing and addressing related environmental
12	and other risk factors, effectively commu-
13	nicating risk, and developing and implementing
14	prevention strategies;
15	"(H) procedures for developing an early
16	warning system to detect, investigate, and
17	where necessary, respond to, emergent public
18	health concerns detected through the State Net-
19	work;
20	"(I) criteria for Environmental Health In-
21	vestigators as required under section
22	2803(e)(2)(C); and
23	"(J) procedures for record and data main-
24	tonenge and varification

"(3) STATE PRIORITIES.—In developing the 1 2 minimum standards and procedures under para-3 graph (1), the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-5 tion, shall include mechanisms for allowing States, 6 political subdivisions of States, territories, and In-7 dian tribes to set priorities, and allocate resources 8 accordingly, among the priority chronic conditions 9 described in paragraph (2)(A), and the relevant environemtnal and behavioral, socioeconomic, demo-10 11 graphic, and other risk factors described in subpara-12 graphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2).

"(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Administrator, shall directly
or through grants or contracts, or both, provide technical
assistance to States, political subdivisions of States, territories, and Indian tribes in the establishment and operation of the State Networks, including providing—

"(1) training for Environmental Health Investigators as described in section 2803(e)(2)(C), for personnel of State, local, territorial, and tribal health agencies, and for other appropriate personnel to develop environmental health leadership capacity at the State (including territories and Indian tribes)

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- and local level, including investigative, analytical,
 risk communication, and response and prevention
 capabilities;
- "(2) assistance in improving relevant regional and State laboratory capacity and other activities to complement State (including territories and Indian tribes) and local investigative capabilities;
- 8 "(3) assistance in establishing a computerized 9 data collection, reporting, and processing system;
- "(4) technical assistance to those States (including territories and Indian tribes) and local governments determined to need such assistance to build capacity to the level necessary for the establishment of a State Network; and
- 15 "(5) any other technical assistance the Sec-16 retary or Administrator determines to be necessary.
- 17 "(d) Report to Congress.—Not later than Sep-
- 18 tember 30, 2004, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary
- 19 shall submit to Congress, and make public, a report con-
- 20 cerning the implementation of this title.
- 21 "(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—For the
- 22 purposes of establishing, operating, and maintaining the
- 23 Nationwide Network, there is authorized to be appro-
- 24 priated \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through
- 25 2007.

1	"SEC. 2805. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RAPID
2	RESPONSE SERVICE.
3	"(a) Establishment.—The Secretary, acting
4	through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control
5	and Prevention, shall establish within the Epidemic Intel-
6	ligence Service a National Environmental Health Rapid
7	Response Service.
8	"(b) Duties.—The National Environmental Health
9	Rapid Response Service established under subsection (a)
10	shall—
11	"(1) work with States, political subdivisions of
12	States, territories, Indian tribes, and other inter-
13	ested parties to develop and implement strategies,
14	protocols, and guidelines for coordinated, rapid re-
15	sponses to actual and perceived higher than expected
16	incidence and prevalence rates of priority chronic
17	conditions and to acute and potential environmental
18	hazards and exposures, taking into consideration the
19	findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the
20	Commission;
21	"(2) serve as a resource for communities with
22	concerns regarding higher than expected incidence
23	and prevalence rates of priority chronic conditions or
24	concerns regarding acute environmental exposures,
25	and where appropriate, conduct investigations into

higher than expected incidence and prevalence rates

- 1 of priority chronic conditions or acute environmental 2 exposures;
- "(3) coordinate activities carried out under this 3 4 title with activities carried out under sections 319 5 through 319G; and
- 6 "(4) coordinate activities carried out under this 7 section with the Administrator of the Environmental 8 Protection Agency, the Administrator of the Agency 9 for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Sur-10 geon General, and the Director of the National In-11 stitutes of Health.
- "(c) Training.—The Secretary shall expand the 12 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemic Intelligence Service and Public Health Prevention Service to 14 15 recruit and train public health officers in epidemiology, environmental health, and other relevant areas to prepare them to respond rapidly and effectively to actual and per-17 18 ceived higher than expected incidence and prevalence rates 19 of priority chronic conditions and to acute and potential environmental hazards and exposures.
- 21 "(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
- \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

36 1 "SEC. 2806, EXPANSION OF BIOMONITORING CAPABILITIES 2 AND DATA COLLECTION. 3 "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall expand the scope and amount of biomonitoring data collected by the 4 5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including the collection of biomonitoring data through the National 6 Health and Nutrition Examination Survey so that such 8 biomonitoring data will provide robust, community level 9 information on a range of environmental exposures, in-10 cluding prenatal exposures. 11 "(b) Increasing Regional Laboratory Capac-ITY.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall enter 13 into cooperative agreements with States, groups of States, academic institutions, or consortia of academic institu-15 tions to establish and operate at least 5 regional biomonitoring laboratories to support the purposes of this title. 17 18 "(c) Geographical Distribution.—In entering

21 tion of regional biomonitoring laboratories. 22 "(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There

into cooperative agreements under this section, the Sec-

retary shall provide for an equitable geographical distribu-

- 23 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—
- 24 "(1) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003
- 25 through 2007 for the expansion of biomonitoring

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- data collection by the Centers for Disease Control
- and Prevention; and
- 3 $\qquad \qquad \text{``(2) $50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years}$
- 4 2003 through 2007 for entering into cooperative
- 5 agreements to establish and operate at least 5 re-
- 6 gional biomonitoring laboratories.

7 "SEC. 2807. THE NATIONAL HEALTH TRACKING REPORT.

- 8 "(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 48 months after
- 9 the date of enactment of this title, and annually there-
- 10 after, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the
- 11 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in coordi-
- 12 nation with the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-
- 13 tection Agency and the Administrator of the Agency for
- 14 Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, shall publish a re-
- 15 port, in an easy to understand format, that will provide
- 16 the public with the findings of the Nationwide Network
- 17 (including key hazards, exposures, and health outcomes)
- 18 and other information that will assist the public in gaug-
- 19 ing progress and shaping national goals with respect to
- 20 environmental health. In developing the report, the Sec-
- 21 retary and the Administrator shall take into consideration
- 22 the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the
- 23 Commission.
- 24 "(b) Consultation.—The Secretary, acting
- 25 through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control

- 1 and Prevention, shall consult with the Commission, the
- 2 Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,
- 3 the Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and
- 4 Disease Registry, States, political subdivisions of States,
- 5 territories, Indian tribes, and other interested parties con-
- 6 cerning the format, content, and methods of dissemination
- 7 with respect to the National Health Tracking Report
- 8 under subsection (a).
- 9 "(c) Requirements.—Each report published under
- 10 subsection (a) shall include, in addition to any other infor-
- 11 mation that the Secretary and the Administrator of the
- 12 Environmental Protection Agency determine
- 13 appropriate—
- 14 "(1) a statement of the activities carried out
- under this title during the period covered by the re-
- port and the extent to which such activities achieve
- 17 the purposes of this title;
- 18 "(2) an analysis of the incidence and prevalence
- of priority chronic conditions and relevant environ-
- 20 mental, behavioral, socioeconomic, demographic, and
- other factors by State and census tract (or other po-
- 22 litical or administrative subdivision determined ap-
- propriate by the Secretary and the Administrator of
- 24 the Environmental Protection Agency) for the cal-

1	endar year preceding the year for which the report
2	is prepared;
3	"(3) the identification of data gaps that remain
4	to be filled; and
5	"(4) recommendations regarding high risk pop-
6	ulations, public health concerns, response and pre-
7	vention strategies, and additional tracking needs.
8	"(d) Dissemination.—The National Health Track-
9	ing Report under subsection (a) shall be made available
10	in an electronic format and be disseminated to the public
11	on as wide a basis as is practicable.
12	"(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
13	is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
14	essary to carry out this section.
15	"PART B—INCREASING PUBLIC HEALTH
16	PERSONNEL CAPACITY
17	"SEC. 2811. SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CENTERS OF EX-
18	CELLENCE.
19	"(a) In General.—Beginning in fiscal year 2003,
20	the Secretary may make grants to, or enter into coopera-
21	tive agreements with, at least 5 accredited schools of pub-
22	lic health or departments of public health or similar de-
23	partments within accredited schools of medicine for the
24	establishment, maintenance, and operation of centers for

- 1 research and demonstration with respect to chronic condi-
- 2 tions and relevant environmental factors.
- 3 "(b) Areas of Research and Demonstration.—
- 4 In addition to areas of research specified by the Secretary
- 5 and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection
- 6 Agency, after taking into consideration the findings, con-
- 7 clusions, and recommendations of the Commission, centers
- 8 established, maintained, or operated under this section
- 9 shall undertake research and development projects in at
- 10 least 1 of the following areas:
- 11 "(1) Investigating causal connections between 12 chronic conditions and environmental factors, includ-
- ing effects of environmental factors on the health of
- children and other vulnerable subpopulations.
- 15 "(2) Increasing the understanding of the causes
- of higher than expected incidence and prevalence
- 17 rates of priority chronic conditions and developing
- more effective intervention methods for when such
- 19 elevated rates occur.
- 20 "(3) Identifying additional chronic conditions
- and environmental factors that could provide infor-
- 22 mation with respect to potential public health bene-
- 23 fits if surveyed through the Nationwide Network, in-
- cluding such conditions as reproductive health, endo-
- crine disorders, cardiovascular diseases, and other

1	chronic conditions that may be related to environ-
2	mental factors.
3	"(4) Improving the translation of Nationwide
4	Network tracking results into effective prevention
5	activities.
6	"(5) Improving the training of the public health
7	workforce in environmental epidemiology.
8	"(c) Requirements.—Each center established
9	maintained, or operated under this section shall be located
10	in a school of public health or a department of public
11	health or similar department within an accredited school
12	of medicine—
13	"(1) that has a core faculty in epidemiology,
14	biostatistics, social and behavioral sciences, environ-
15	mental health sciences, health communication, and
16	health services administration;
17	"(2) with a proximity to, and that collaborates
18	with, a laboratory with expertise in biomonitoring
19	and other techniques for measuring and quantifying
20	environmental factors and exposures;
21	"(3) that provides graduate training programs
22	relevant to disease prevention and environmental
23	health;
24	"(4) that has a multidisciplinary faculty that
25	has working relationships with relevant groups in

1	such fields as medicine, psychology, nursing, pediat-
2	rics, social work, education, environmental sciences,
3	and life sciences;
4	"(5) that has a demonstrated curriculum in dis-
5	ease prevention;
6	"(6) that has a capability for residency training
7	in public health or preventive medicine;
8	"(7) that maintains collaborative partnerships
9	with State and local health departments; and
10	"(8) that meets such other qualifications as the
11	Secretary may prescribe.
12	"(d) Community Involvement.—
13	"(1) In general.—In conducting research and
14	demonstration projects under subsection (b), each
15	center established, maintained, or operated under
16	this section shall involve community organizations to
17	ensure that local concerns are adequately addressed
18	and that aggregated data resulting from the projects
19	are readily accessible and contain information useful
20	for local activities.
21	"(2) Requirements.—The centers established,
22	maintained, or operated under this section shall—
23	"(A) utilize community outreach and orga-
24	nization techniques and other methods of edu-
25	cating and motivating communities; and

1	"(B) work with community organizations
2	to routinely evaluate the Nationwide Network
3	and State Networks with respect to local needs
4	and to ensure appropriate dissemination and in-
5	terpretation of tracking data.
6	"(e) Application.—To be eligible to receive a grant
7	or cooperative agreement under subsection (a) an accred-
8	ited school of public health or a department of public
9	health or similar department within an accredited school
10	of medicine shall submit to the Commission for approval
11	an application that is in such form, submitted in such
12	manner, and accompanied by such information, as the
13	Secretary and the Commission may specify.
14	"(f) Selection.—In determining which applications
15	to approve under subsection (e), the Commission shall—
16	"(1) provide for an equitable geographical dis-
17	tribution of centers established, maintained, and op-
18	erated under this section; and
19	"(2) provide for the distribution of such centers
20	among areas containing a range of population
21	groups which exhibit incidence rates of chronic con-
22	ditions that are—
23	"(A) higher than would normally be ex-
24	pected;

1	"(B) likely to be related to environmental
2	factors; and
3	"(C) most likely to respond to preventive
4	intervention efforts.
5	"(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6	is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
7	\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.
8	"SEC. 2812. JOHN H. CHAFEE PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLAR
9	PROGRAM.
10	"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award schol-
11	arships, to be know as John H. Chafee Public Health
12	Scholarships, to eligible students who meet the criteria es-
13	tablished under subsection (b) and who are enrolled in an
14	accredited school of public health or a department of pub-
15	lic health or similar department within an accredited
16	school of medicine.
17	"(b) Criteria for Scholarships.—The Secretary
18	and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection
19	Agency, taking into consideration the recommendations of
20	the Commission, shall establish specific criteria upon
21	which to award scholarships under subsection (a), which
22	shall include criteria relating to appropriate basic and ad-
23	vanced training in chronic conditions and environmental
24	epidemiology, environmental health sciences, risk commu-
25	nication, and community outreach and intervention.

- 1 "(c) Eligibility.—To be eligible to receive a schol-
- 2 arship under this section, an individual shall—
- 3 "(1) be enrolled on a full-time basis in, or ac-
- 4 cepted to, a master's or doctoral level program in
- 5 public health at an accredited school of public health
- 6 or a department of public health or similar depart-
- 7 ment within an accredited school of medicine;
- 8 "(2) submit an application to the Secretary at
- 9 such time, in such manner, and containing such
- agreements, assurances, and information as the Sec-
- 11 retary and the Administrator determine to be nec-
- essary to carry out this section; and
- "(3) enter into an obligated service agreement
- with the Secretary under which the individual agrees
- to accept employment, following the completion of
- the recipient's course of study, in a State, local, mu-
- 17 nicipal, tribal, territory, or Federal public health
- agency for 1 year for each year that the recipient re-
- 19 ceived such a scholarship.
- 20 "(d) Selection.—The recipients of scholarships
- 21 under this section shall be selected by the Commission
- 22 based on the applications submitted.
- "(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
- 24 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
- 25 \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

1 "PART C—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 2 "SEC. 2821. GENERAL PROVISIONS.
- 3 "(a) Internal Monitoring and Coordination
- 4 Regarding Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
- 5 VENTION.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of
- 6 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall
- 7 place primary responsibility for the coordination of the
- 8 programs established under this title in the Office of the
- 9 Director. In addition, the officers or employees of such
- 10 Centers who are assigned responsibility for monitoring
- 11 and coordinating the activities carried out under this title
- 12 by such Centers include officers or employees within the
- 13 Office of the Director of such Centers.
- 14 "(b) Funding Through Appropriations Ac-
- 15 COUNT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT.—All au-
- 16 thorizations of appropriations established in this title are
- 17 authorizations exclusively for appropriations to the ac-
- 18 count that, among appropriations accounts for the Centers
- 19 for Disease Control and Prevention, is designated 'public
- 20 health improvement'.
- 21 "(c) Date Certain for Obligation of Appro-
- 22 PRIATIONS.—With respect to the process of receiving ap-
- 23 plications for and making awards of grants, cooperative
- 24 agreements, and contracts under this title, the Secretary,
- 25 acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease
- 26 Control and Prevention, shall to the extent practicable de-

- 1 sign the process to ensure that amounts appropriated
- 2 under this title for such awards for a fiscal year are obli-
- 3 gated not later than the beginning of the fourth quarter
- 4 of the fiscal year, subject to compliance with section 1512
- 5 of title 31, United States Code (relating to deficiency or
- 6 supplemental appropriations), and other applicable law re-
- 7 garding appropriations accounting.
- 8 "(d) Coordination With Agency for Toxic Sub-
- 9 STANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY.—For carrying out the
- 10 purposes of this title, the Secretary, acting through the
- 11 Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
- 12 tion, shall coordinate activities and responses with the
- 13 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.".

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